

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8 remain in this application. Claims 1-6 and 8 are rejected. Claim 1 is objected to. Claims 7 and 9-10 are previously cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 are amended herein to clarify the invention, to broaden language as deemed appropriate and to address matters of form unrelated to substantive patentability issues. For the convenience of the Examiner, APPENDIX I is provided herewith having a complete set of pending claims with all amendments effected therein.

The title is objected to in the Office Action as being nondescriptive. The title is amended to read "BATTERY PACK WITH REDUCED TEMPERATURE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN CELLS" as suggested in the Office Action to overcome this objection. It is respectfully submitted that the amended title is sufficiently descriptive. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is objected to due to a grammatical informality. Claim 1 is now amended to overcome this objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 are rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention as a result of informalities stated in the Office Action. The

claims are amended to remove or correct the informalities noted in the Office Action. In particular, the claims now recite that the plurality of cells include at least two groups of cells which that their short sides linked. Thus, it should now be clear that the claims are intended to read on embodiments having parallel rows of cells. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 2-6 and their allowance are earnestly requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the EP 0952620 ('620) reference. The '620 reference is only applicable as prior art as of the publication date of October 27, 1999, which is now antedated by the Japanese patent application number 10-337820 priority filing. Since certified priority documents have been supplied by the International Bureau, applicant submits herewith in order to perfect priority, a literal translation of the priority filing along with a statement executed by the translator indicating that the translation is accurate. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the '620 reference is now removed as prior art rendering said rejections moot.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,
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enc: Translation of Priority Document and Verification of Translation.



APPENDIX I

ALL PENDING CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS EFFECTED THEREIN

1. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable battery, comprising:

a plurality of cells;

each cell of said plurality of cells including elements for electromotive force and each cell being formed in a rectangular shape having short sides with a narrow width, [and] long sides with a wide width relative to the narrow width, a top side, and bottom side;

each cell of said plurality of cells including ribs extending on said long sides;

said plurality of cells and being electrically interconnected and linked together adjacent to one another at the short sides to form a battery pack;

a first binding plate adjacent the long sides of the plurality of cells on a first side of the battery pack, the first binding plate having an outer side edge parallel with the short sides of the plurality of cells;

a second binding plate adjacent the long sides of the plurality of cells on a second side of the battery pack opposing the first side of the battery pack, the second binding plate having an outer side edge parallel with the short sides of the plurality of cells;

at least one binding band at an end of the battery pack overlapping the outer side edge of the first binding plate and the outer side edge of the second binding plate;

said first binding plate and said second binding plate forming coolant passages in conjunction with the first and second sides of the battery pack and the plurality of ribs; and

coolant passing through the coolant passages.

2. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable battery, comprising:

a plurality of cells;

each cell of said plurality of cells including elements for electromotive force and each cell being formed in a rectangular shape having short sides with a narrow width, [and] long sides with a wide width relative to the narrow width, a top side, and bottom side;

each cell of said plurality of cells including ribs extending on said long sides;

said plurality of cells including at least two groups of cells wherein the cells of each of the at least two groups are linked together adjacent to one another at the short sides to form at least two battery modules wherein the cells form at least one row in each of the at least two battery modules, the at least two battery modules being arranged in parallel with the long sides of the battery cells of the respective ones of the at least two battery modules adjacent one another, and the battery modules being linked together to form a battery pack and the plurality of cells being electrically connected;

a first binding plate adjacent the long sides of said cells on a first side of the battery pack, and the first binding plate having an outer side edge parallel with the short sides of said plurality of cells;

a second binding plate adjacent the long sides said cells on a second side of the battery pack opposing the first side, and the second binding plate having an outer side edge parallel with the short sides of said plurality of cells;

at least one binding band overlapping the outer side edge of the first binding plate and the outer side edge of the second binding plate; and

said first binding plate and said second binding plate forming coolant passages in conjunction with the first and second sides of the battery pack and the plurality of ribs; and

coolant passing through the coolant passages.

3. (Currently Amended) The rechargeable battery according to Claim 2, further comprising a heat transfer plate with thermal conductivity provided between the battery modules disposed in parallel.

4. (Currently Amended) The rechargeable battery according to Claim 2, further comprising a heat transfer plate with thermal conductivity provided between the battery modules disposed in parallel, and end heat transfer plates exposed to the

outside linked to ends of the heat transfer plate in the direction in which the battery modules are linked.

5. (Currently Amended) The rechargeable battery according to Claim 3 or 4, wherein the coolant is made to flow through the heat transfer plate and/or the end heat transfer plates.

6. (Currently Amended) The rechargeable battery according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of cells are linked together with the elements for electromotive force of each cell provided inside a battery case and the battery cases are integrally linked together.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) The rechargeable battery according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of cells are integrally linked with the linking position and linking direction varied as desired.

9-10. (Cancelled).